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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/576,673

01/08/2007

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06290/LH

4114

1933 7590 03/23/2009
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EXAMINER

JENNINGS, STEPHANIE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3725

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/23/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/576,673	Applicant(s) SHIROZA, KAZUHIRO	
	Examiner Stephanie Jennings	Art Unit 3725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-14, 17 and 18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20081015, 20071107, 20070821, 20070108,</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <u>20060421.</u> | |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-5 and 15-16 in the reply filed on February 3, 2009 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 6-14 and 17-18 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on February 3, 2009.

Specification

3. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the feed drive servomotor must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must

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be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It unclear as the claim is currently written how the motion of each feed carrier is individually controlled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

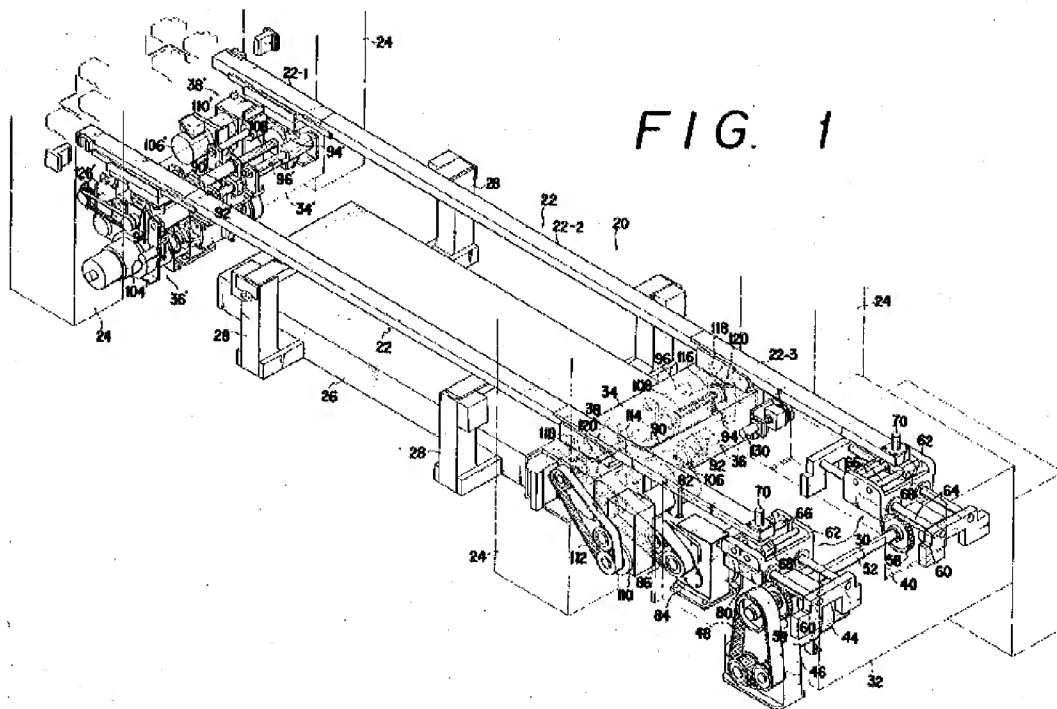
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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8. Claims 1, 3-5, 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mizumoto et al. US Patent No. 4,540,087.

9. Mizumoto anticipates:



10. Limitations from claim 1, a work carrying device (20) of pressing machine, comprising: frames provided on both sides of a moving bolster (26) in a work transfer direction; a pair of bars (22) provided in parallel in the work transfer direction (column 3, lines 11-14); a feed carrier (62) held by each of the bars; a feed drive mechanism (30) provided on each of the bars, the feed drive mechanism driving the feed carrier in the work transfer direction (column 3, lines 42-45); a lift drive mechanism (38) provided in each of the frames, the lift drive mechanism (38) driving the pair of bars in a lift direction so that the bars moves vertically (column 6, lines 33-37); a clamp drive mechanism (36) provided in each of the frames, the clamp drive mechanism (36)

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driving the pair of bars in a clamp direction perpendicular to the work transfer direction (column 5, lines 26-42); and a work holder detachably attached to the feed carrier for holding a work (column 4, lines 42-44).

11. Limitations from claim 3, the work carrying device of pressing machine according to claim 1, wherein the feed drive mechanism (30) is provided with a servomotor (44) (column 4, lines 16-18).

12. Limitations from claim 4, the work carrying device of pressing machine according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the work holders (70) for plural working processes are detachably attached to the feed carrier (62 or 68) (column 4, lines 42-44).

13. Limitations from claim 5, the work carrying device of pressing machine according to claim 1, wherein the pair of bars include fixed bars supported by the clamp drive mechanism (36), and movable bars (94) capable of being detached from the fixed bars (22) (column 5, lines 40-42).

14. The examiner notes that the applicant has drafted the claim with the use of “or.” The examiner is tasked with reading the claims broadly and by reading the disjunctive connector, only the limitations from the disjunctive connector needs to be met to reject the claim.

15. Examiner must give claims their broadest reasonable interpretation, MPEP §2111, “During patent examination, the pending claims must be ‘given the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification.’ Applicant always has the opportunity to amend the claims during prosecution and broad interpretation by the examiner reduces the possibility that the claim, once issued, will be interpreted more broadly than is justified, *In re Pratter*, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-51 (CCPA 1969), *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-

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55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997).” Also see *In re Zletz*, 13 USPQ 2d. 1320 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

16. Limitations from claim 15, the work carrying device of pressing machine according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the feed carriers (62, 68) are held by each of the bars (22), a motion of the each feed carrier being individually controllable (column 4, lines 31-39).

17. Limitations from claim 16, the work carrying device of pressing machine according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the feed carriers (62, 68) are held by each of the bars, adjacent ones of the plurality of the feed carriers being connected to each other by a connector (70) (column 4, lines 47-51).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

18. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

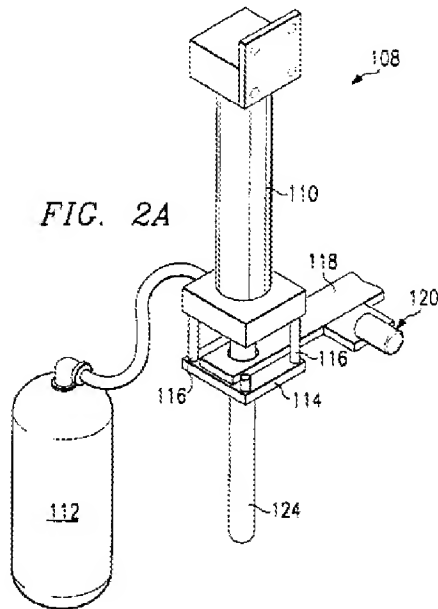
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

19. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizumoto as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Vanderzee et al. US Patent No. 5,782,129 .

20. Mizumoto teaches a work transfer apparatus for a pressing machine, but does not teach such an apparatus with a linear motor. Vanderzee, however, teaches this feature.

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21. Vanderzee teaches:



22.

23. Limitations from claim 2, the work carrying device of pressing machine according to claim 1, wherein the feed drive mechanism is provided with a linear motor (120) (column 6, lines 54-59).

24. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Vanderzee's invention and Mizumoto's invention because the linear motor ensures regulation of the feed drive mechanism.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephanie Jennings whose telephone number is (571) 270-7392. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7 am - 5:30 pm EST.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dana Ross can be reached on (571) 272-4480. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. J./
Examiner, Art Unit 3725
March 18, 2009

/Dana Ross/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
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